
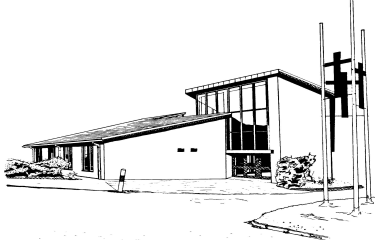


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p align="center">Parish Clergy:</p> <p align="center">Canon Michael Dennehy (mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)</p> <p align="center">Fr. Richard Maniak Hospital Chaplain</p> <p align="center">Registered Charity Number: 246871</p>	
<p>64 Liebenrood Road Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB Tel: 0118 957 2149 - email: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrsrdg.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Gwen Price</p>	<p>RBH Chaplain: Fr Richard Maniak RBH: 0118 3227105 (H) 0118 9586637 <u>Email: fr.richman@hotmail.co.uk</u></p>	<p>The Presbytery, Berkshire Drive Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5JJ Tel: 0118 942 8632 e-mail: sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR C

2ND/3RD JANUARY 2015

Sincere Thanks to Everyone

On behalf of Fr. Richard and myself, I want to thank you for your generosity to us over the Christmas period. We are very grateful for the many cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes that we received as well as your generosity to us in the Christmas collection. Sincere thanks to you all for your kindness and generosity.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

A few years ago Pope Benedict XV1 published a series of books on Jesus of Nazareth including, “Jesus of Nazareth - The Infancy Narratives.” Pope Benedict says this of the visit of the wise men, “The key point is this: the wise men from the East are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity towards Christ. They initiate a procession that continues throughout history. Not only do they represent the people who have found the way to Christ: they represent the inner aspiration of the human spirit, the dynamism of religions and human reason toward him.”

Of the gifts presented to the Christ child Pope Benedict says, “In the Church’s tradition - with certain variations - the three gifts have been thought to represent three aspects of the mystery of Christ: the gold points to Jesus’ kingship, the incense to his divine sonship, the myrrh to the mystery of his Passion.”

He goes on to say, “The myrrh actually appears in St John’s Gospel after the death of Jesus: John tells us that Nicodemus had prepared myrrh, among other ointments, for the anointing of Jesus’ body (Jn. 19:39). Through the myrrh, then, the mystery of the Cross is once again associated with Jesus’ kingship and mysteriously proclaimed in the worship offered by the wise men. Anointing is an attempt to resist death, which only becomes as definitive with decomposition. By the time the women came to the tomb to anoint the body on Easter morning - a task that could not be carried out on the evening of the crucifixion because of the approaching feast day - Jesus had already risen. He no longer needed myrrh as a protection against death, because God’s life itself had overcome death.”

Happy New Year!

Fr Michael

MASS INTENTIONS			
ENGLISH MARTYRS		DAYS	ST JOSEPH'S
People of the Parish	6.30 pm	Saturday	
Sarah Onuoha RIP RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am Iris McSoley & Mary Walker RIP
Donald Jurgens RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am People of the Parish
Chris Moran RIP	5.00 pm		6.30 pm Syro Malabar
Thomas Smith RIP	9.30 am	Monday	NO MASS
NO MASS		Tuesday	9.00 am Thomas Walshe RIP & Annie Kate Walshe RIP
Price & Lagden Family Intentions	9.30 am	Wednesday	NO MASS
Archbishop J.H.King RIP (F)	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.30 am Joseph Marshall RIP
Patrick Murphy RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm Fr Michael’s Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am Lonergan family RIP
FEASTS OF THE WEEK: Thurs – St Raymond of Peñafort			
Thursday – 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Saturday: 8.50 – 9.50 am
11am -12 noon Holy Hour/ Confessions Before Mass 5.30–6.15	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY		After Mass at 10.30 am
Responsorial Psalm: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.”			

REMINDER

The counters for next Sunday, 10th January will be Rita McKenna and Peter Nicholson.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Especially for Nora Colley, Richard O'Brien, Rita Daly, Terri Hadland, Michael Hoban, Marie Minien, Sheila Robinson, Ellen Knox, Pamela Humphries, Pat Togher, Chris Foley, Brian Sheridan, John Sullivan, Zoie Kathleen Barr, Patricia Kusta, Richard Owens, Jim Taylor, Gene, Sam, Sean Murphy, Bernadette Smeesters, Fr Terry Burke, Norma McGoff, David McKinley & Margaret Chaplin. If you know of anyone who is unwell and would like to be prayed for at Mass, please let St Joseph's Parish Office know. Their names** will then be included in the bidding prayers. Please make sure the person is happy for their name to be mentioned beforehand.

**** Please advise the Parish Office if any of the above named people no longer need to be included in prayers for the sick.****

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

If any parishioner is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if anyone knows of such a person, please inform St Joseph's Parish Office or Jo Boase on 967 2605, so that visits can be arranged.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, all Catholics must inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic, and if they wish to have Holy Communion or see Fr Richard they must now request this themselves, otherwise they may not be visited. From now on, all arrangements in RBH must be patient-led. Information leaflets offering further guidance from the RBH are available in the Church porch.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

The next meeting will be at St Joseph's on Wednesday, 6th January 2016. *All are welcome.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS INTENTIONS

10 th January	8.30 am 10.30 am	Paul Spackman's Intentions People of the parish
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ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be open as usual on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 5th, 7th & 8th January.

CRIB OFFERINGS

This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Philip, our parish will be donating crib offerings to the Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical.

WOODLEY JUMBULANCE GROUP

Next year will be the last Jumbulance holiday unless we find someone new to lead the group, so we have decided to go back to Lourdes where we started 30 years ago. We will be away from Friday, 1st – Saturday, 9th April 2016. Anyone who would like to come as a nurse, helper or VIP please contact either *John Gill 969 4769, Marie O'Gorman 969 1927 or Anne MacDonald 958 5841.*

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? You may be considering becoming a Catholic or simply want to ask a few questions. Perhaps you are a Catholic who has been out of touch and would like to reconnect. The Journey in Faith group meets on Thursday evenings at 8 pm. For more details please phone *Brigid Parkes* on 942 7436 or email *brigid@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk*.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 13th & 20th January 2016 from 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the large Church hall. We will be using a programme called: Baptism – helping your child get the most out of life. Godparents are also welcome to join us for discussion and to watch a DVD.

The courses only run every few months, so if you are new or expectant parents, it might be better to attend this course if you wish your child to be baptised fairly soon. If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Mary Phillip* on 961 5905 email: *mphilip@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk* or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

AGE UK READING

Age UK Reading provide a toe nail cutting service to anyone who is unable to do their feet. They operate on a Tuesday in Room 1 at the English Martyrs Church, and also in different locations around Reading, Earley, Woodley and Twyford. If you would like to know more about this service or make an appointment please call us on 950 2480 and ask for the "Happy Feet" service".

READING ABBEY RUINS

It has been announced that RBC have been successful in their bid for lottery funding to begin conservation work on the Abbey ruins.

The Abbey is of enormous significance to the Catholic community in Reading and it was here that the Benedictine Monks prayed and lived as a community. People came on pilgrimage to the Abbey to honour the presence of the holy Relic of St James. The Abbey is believed to have been the third largest community in the country. The last Abbot, Hugh Cook of Faringdon, was martyred as he refused to surrender the Abbey to the Crown.

The church of St James is on the site of the Abbey and continues the Catholic presence in the town centre. It is also hoped that in due time the ruins on the site of St James will also be renovated.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Latest copy of the magazine covering the period January – March 2016 is now available at the back of the Church.

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S CHURCH, CAVERSHAM

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy St Anne's has been designated as a "Jubilee church".

LAUNCH OF CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION IN DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH:

Bishop Philip warmly invites all grandparents to join him in the Cathedral for a special Grandparents Association in our Diocese. Mass will be at 12.15 pm on Friday, 12th February 2016, and will be followed by an address from Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. All are very welcome. For details, contact 01328 560333 or email info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. Information on <http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org>.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES
MONDAY 25TH JULY - FRIDAY 29TH JULY, 2016**

A Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes is planned for next July and in order to assess costings, etc., I would be grateful if you could let me know, as soon as possible, if you are interested in going. It will be a wonderful opportunity to visit Lourdes in the Year of Mercy. A booking form is available from Judith or the Parish Office. An information evening will be organised next month. Please email [Judith](mailto:Judith@judithjan29@gmail.com) or phone 0783 014 4165.

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Are you a former Blessed Hugh pupil? Stay in touch with us today by joining our school community:

We've teamed up with the education charity, Future First, who are helping us to reconnect with our former students, whether they left last year or 50 years ago!

With our 60th Anniversary in 2018, we want to reconnect with as many past students as possible. Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk, click the 'Sign Up' tab, then 'Former Student' and type 'Blessed Hugh Faringdon'.

CARITAS – DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

The new website of Caritas has recently gone live – please see www.caritasdioceseofportsmouth.org.uk. There is information here about recent initiatives, including a trip to 'the Jungle' migrants' camp in Calais and a monthly newsletter from the Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team. There are also ways to get involved detailed on the website.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Do you have a family member or friend, over 18, who is a baptised Catholic but no longer practices their faith? Whatever their story, they are invited to share it anonymously. Please ask them to complete the online survey at: www.mystoryshared.co.uk. We have prepared an invitation card & would like you to take one and hand it to someone who has for whatever the reason, stopped going to Church. These cards are available in the Church porch.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS' MEETING

Join us at our next meeting on Saturday, 23rd January 2016 from 10 am until 1.30 pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where we will explore our Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda. To book a place please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 15th January 2016.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

At 6.30 pm on Sunday, 17th January here at St Joseph's Church, led by Michael Penny - Chair of Churches Together in Reading. Telephone 01491 671357 for further information. Organised by Churches Together in Tilehurst and West Reading. Refreshments & fellowship following the service. *All are welcome.*

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

For Christian Unity Week (18th – 25th January 2016) the Christian Unity team in the diocesan Framework is asking parishes to pray particularly for the coming together of Christians in their communities. This is always an important time for us to consider the command of Our Lord, "that they may all be one" (John 17:21) and the theme this year, that we become the salt of the earth, is a challenge for us to pray for and to reflect on.

The team is also keen to attract some additional members - if Christian unity is something you are enthusiastic about, please contact [Eileen Finch](mailto:Eileen.Finch@orpheusmail.co.uk) at: finch@orpheusmail.co.uk.

